

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed on September 17, 2004 (paper No. 20040810), the Examiner allowed claims 1-3, objected to claim 36, rejected Claims 4-18, 20-21, 24-35 and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent App. Publication No. 2002/0042756A1 by Kumar et al. ("Kumar"), and rejected claims 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kumar and U.S. Patent App. Publication No. 2002/0077919A1 by Lin et al. ("Lin"). In this response, applicants cancel claims 4-23, 36, and 38; amend claim 24, and present new claims 39-63 to more clearly define the subject matter that Applicants consider to be their invention. As a result, claims 1-3, 24-35, 37, and 39-63 are now pending. For the reasons discussed in detail below, Applicants submit that this response places the application in condition for allowance.

While Applicants do not concur in either of the prior rejections, in order to expedite examination of the application, Applicants herein amend claim 24 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 36 – indicated by the Examiner to be allowable – thus rendering allowable claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-35 and 37. All other rejected claims are cancelled herein.

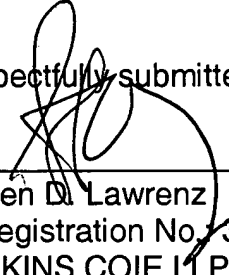
New claims 39-63 presented herein are intended to transform the allowable method claims discussed above into alternate claim forms. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended by the Examiner to Applicants' representative during the telephone interviews conducted on November 3-4, 2004 to discuss acceptable wording for these transformed claims.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner does not concur, or believes that a further telephone interview would advance the examination of the application, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 359-6373.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 249768059US, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Steven D. Lawrenz
Registration No. 37,376
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000
(206) 359-7198 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant